

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed December 9, 2004, pending claims 1-48 were examined. Claims 22-35 and 46-48 were allowed, claims 6-9, 11, 13-21 and 37-45 were objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent form with all of the base claim limitations and any intervening claims, and claims 1-5, 10, 12 and 36 were rejected.

In response, Applicants are herein canceling the rejected claims and the claims which were objected to. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. To expedite issuance of the allowed claims, Applicants intend to timely file a continuation under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) to continue prosecution of the claims which were not allowed.

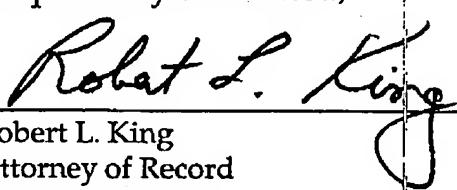
Applicants request the allowance of claims 22-35 and 46-48, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance. Should issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at (512) 996-6839.

Respectfully submitted,

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